
CULTURAL AND HERITAGE RESOURCES

Cultural and heritage resources include archaeological and historic sites, landmarks, and “semipublic” cultural facilities.

HISTORIC SITES

The only designated historic site in Mission Valley is the Mission San Diego de Alcalá (City Historical Site No. 113). It is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places, as well as being a designated National Historic Landmark, and a California Registered Landmark. The Mission is located on the north side of San Diego Mission Road between I-15 and Fairmount Avenue, on a part of the Nazareth School complex. The Mission was the first established in upper (Alta) California. It was founded by the Franciscan Order under the direction of Father Junipero Serra in the late 1770s. The mission is also named a “Minor Basilica”—a designation of historical prominence in Catholic Church history. It is one of three such designated sites in California.

CHURCHES

There are three churches in Mission Valley. The Mission San Diego de Alcalá is located adjacent to the Nazareth complex. Two other churches are located on Camino del Rio South. These are the First United Methodist Church of San Diego, located just west of Texas Street; and the Church of Religious Science Center of San Diego, located near National University.

While the Mission San Diego de Alcalá continues to serve as a parish church it is perhaps more significant in the land use context as a heritage resource. It has been designated as a historic site by national, state and local authorities, and probably generates more traffic and visitor trips from its significance as a historic site and structure than from its strictly religious nature as a place of worship.

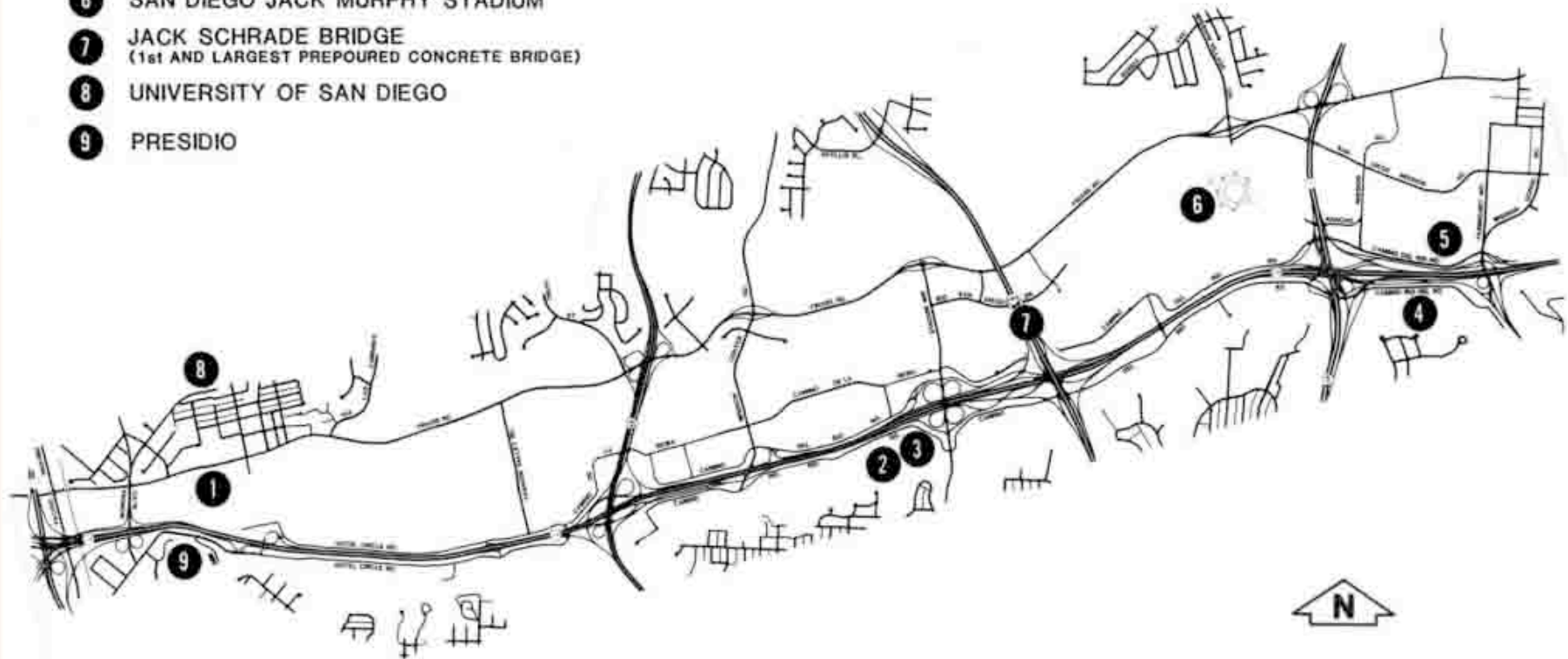
All three churches are “commuter” facilities as they serve a wide region rather than a specific neighborhood or community. The two churches located on Camino del Rio South cause few parking problems, as they are located in a commercial area. A residential neighborhood has developed around the Mission; on-street parking, especially on Sundays, may occasionally cause some problems for residents.

The Mission San Diego de Alcalá is also a cultural focal point for East Mission Valley. Public involvement includes a community theater, festivals and facilities for archaeological-historical research.

LANDMARKS

San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium is probably the most distinct landmark in Mission Valley. Its award-winning design and regional importance as a professional sports facility have also made it a community landmark. It dominates the view from almost any vantage point in the eastern portion of the Valley.

- 1 Y.M.C.A.
- 2 SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE
- 3 FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
- 4 CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE
- 5 MISSION SAN DIEGO DE ALCALA
- 6 SAN DIEGO JACK MURPHY STADIUM
- 7 JACK SCHRADE BRIDGE
(1st AND LARGEST PREPOURED CONCRETE BRIDGE)
- 8 UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO
- 9 PRESIDIO



Cultural Resources—Landmarks
Mission Valley Community Plan

29
FIGURE

The Jack Schrade Bridge (I-805 overpass) is also a prominent landmark in the Valley, particularly from I-8 and Camino del Rio South. It is named after the California legislator instrumental in obtaining the funds for its construction. The bridge was the first of its kind to be constructed entirely out of preformed concrete.

The University of San Diego is a visual landmark located at the western end of the Valley in the Linda Vista community. It is situated to the north of Linda Vista Road on a 106-acre site. The most striking element of the University, as a landmark, is the distinctive tower and blue dome of the Spanish Renaissance-style Immaculata Church building.

The Serra Museum located in Presidio Park is also a visual landmark located at the western end of the valley in the Old San Diego community. It is situated above Hotel Circle South (Taylor Street) and I-8 and its white adobe Spanish Mission Style architecture is readily visible throughout a significant portion of the valley.

OTHER INSTITUTIONS

The Scottish Rite Memorial Temple, located on Camino del Rio South, is the only fraternal facility in Mission Valley. Its large hall is frequently leased out for exhibitions, ethnic festivals and other cultural activities.

The Young Mens' Christian Association (YMCA) has a new facility located on Friars Road, just east of Napa Street. The new YMCA will serve as a community activity center for West Mission Valley, because its facilities (such as a gymnasium, arts and crafts rooms, meeting rooms and outdoor play facilities) are designed to appeal to youth and adults alike.

OBJECTIVES

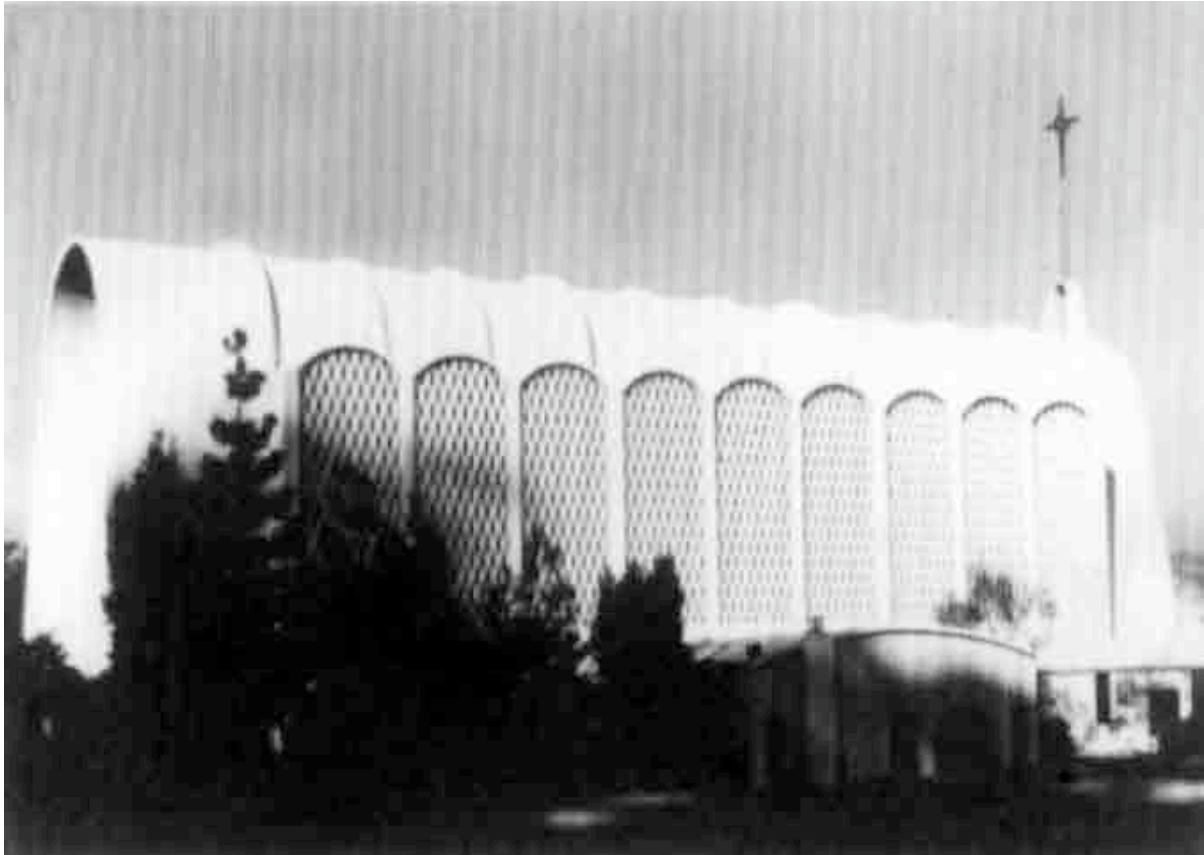
- Encourage cultural resources to locate in Mission Valley.
- Identify and preserve any archaeological or historic sites.

PROPOSALS

- Conduct archaeological and paleontological surveys, when warranted, for projects requiring a discretionary permit.
- Should a site worthy of preservation be found, institute appropriate measures for its protection or for the salvage of the artifacts.
- Encourage location of neighborhood-oriented religious facilities in residential areas, and regional-oriented religious facilities outside of residential areas.
- Retain the Nazareth complex (orphanage, parochial school, retirement home) as an appropriate use for its location.
- Maintain view corridors to identified community landmarks as a means of establishing the

uniqueness and maintaining the visual qualities of the community and as a means of providing orientation within the valley. This can be accomplished, in part, through the use of Specific Plans and Planned Development permits.

- Review of historic sites, and archeological resources, geological and paleontological resources and geologic hazards should be included as part of project review.



First United Methodist Church of San Diego